Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, PE

SUBJECT: GATT BOP COMMITTEE -- PERU

REF: STATE 57132

- 1. GATT SECRETARIAT AND BOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DO NOT EXPECT DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE GATT BOP PROCEDURE REFORM TO INTERFERE WITH SCHEDULING INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS. BOTH REFORM DISCUSSIONS AND SOME COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING FINLAND. TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED WEEK APRIL 21-25.
- 2. GATT SECRETARIAT HAS TRIED REPEATEDLY CONVINCE PERUVIAN MISSION SUBMIT NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR PREPARATION FULL BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSULTATION WHICH WAS CALLED FOR BY BOP COMMITTEE IN MARCH, 1974. PERU MISSION SAYS THEY CAN'T BE READY IN TIME FOR APRIL CONSULTATION AND INDEED NONCOMMITTAL RE POSSIBILITIES FOR LATER 1975 REVIEW. GIVEN HISTORY OF POSTPONEMENT, THIS RATHER UNFORTUNATE DISREGARD OF GATT PRACTICE COULD SET BAD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER LDCS, AT LEAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME OF WHICH HAVE TENDED THEIR GATT OBLIGATIONS MORE

CLOSELY.

- 3. FYI, GATT SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TO PERU THAT THEY SEEK WAIVER IN ORDER ALLOW TIME FOR RENEGOTIATION OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ADOPTION OF VARIOUS PERUVIAN CUSTOMS TARIFFS OVER THE YEARS. THIS WOULD ELIMINATE SOME OF COMPLEXITY OF BOP EXAMINATION AND WOULD FREE PERU AND COMMITTEE TO CONCENTRATE ON SUCH MATTERS AS QRS, PROHIBITIONS, SURCHARGES. (AT LEAST IT WOULD ENABLE COMMITTEE PRETEND TO HAVE THIS BURDEN LIFTED. SECRETARIAT IS AT LOSS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PERUVIAN MEASURES TAKEN TO RESTRUCTURE TARIFF -- AND THUS OLDER GATT TARIFF BINDINGS -- ON THE ONE HAND, AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS, SUCH AS INCORPORATION OF STATISTICAL TAX INTO TARIFF ON THE OTHER.)
- 4. RECOMMEND U.S. REMIND PERU OF OUR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE DURING MARCH, 1974 BOP REVIEW, WHEN WE AGREED TO UNUSUAL STEP OF POSTPONING LONG-OVERDUE CONSULTATIONS UNTIL 1975, AND CITE THIS AS EXAMPLE OF U.S. UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN ADDITION TO COOPERATION OFFERED IN REFTEL. MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL, IF WASHINGTON CONCURS WITH SECRETARIAT'S WAIVER SUGGESTION ON TARIFFS, INDICATE TO PERU THAT U.S. WOULD AUPPORT SUCH A WAIVER. THUS, THERE SHOULD BE NO OBSTACLE TO HOLDING CONSULTATIONS. DALE

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